

HR 9057

2011

## House Resolution

A resolution recognizing November 14-20, 2011, as "Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week" in Florida.

WHEREAS, the central nervous system is made up of two parts, the brain and the spinal cord, and

WHEREAS, the spinal cord is considered the "information superhighway" of the body because it contains bundles of neurons that carry signals to and from the brain, controlling many bodily functions, and

WHEREAS, after a spinal cord injury occurs, damaged neurons can no longer emit signals to or from the brain, and the injured person suffers permanent sensory loss and loss of muscle control, and

WHEREAS, currently there are approximately 262,000 individuals in the United States who have sustained a spinal cord injury, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the annual incidence of spinal cord injury in the United States, not including those who die at the scene of an accident, is approximately 12,000 new cases each year, and

WHEREAS, the most common age for spinal cord injuries is 19 years old, with 25 percent of all injuries occurring between the ages of 17 and 23, and 51 percent of all injuries occurring between the ages of 16 and 30, and

WHEREAS, more than 80 percent of spinal cord injuries occur in men and nearly 20 percent occur in women, and

WHEREAS, the four leading causes of spinal cord injury for

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29 both men and women are auto accidents, falls, acts of violence,  
30 and recreational sporting activities, and

31 WHEREAS, the average annual cost of care for individuals  
32 who have a spinal cord injury ranges from \$245,000 to \$830,000  
33 the first year after injury, with an estimated lifetime cost  
34 ranging between \$529,000 and \$3.3 million depending on the  
35 severity of injury, and

36 WHEREAS, in the past 17 years, scientists have made major  
37 breakthroughs in understanding how to encourage damaged neurons  
38 to regenerate and restore function and how to improve the  
39 quality of life for patients in areas such as infertility and  
40 pain management, and

41 WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation has worked to help  
42 fund research aimed at finding a cure for paralysis, as well as  
43 improving the overall quality of life for individuals with  
44 paralysis, and

45 WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation will spend the week  
46 of November 14-20, 2011, working with local governments and  
47 schools to educate Floridians about the causes of and treatments  
48 for spinal cord injuries, as well as informing the public on how  
49 to prevent these injuries from taking place, NOW, THEREFORE,

50  
51 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
52 Florida:

53  
54 That November 14-20, 2011, is recognized as "Spinal Cord  
55 Injury Awareness Week" in the State of Florida.